

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02359 301521Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 EB-08 DOTE-00
PPT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05
SSO-00 /097 W

-----110512 301614Z /43

P R 301446Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8780
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2359

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS MOPS ZA WA
SUBJ: AMERICAN PILOT KILLED

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1200 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON 29 JUNE
1978 A PRIVATE ZAMBIAN REGISTERED TWIN-ENGINE BEECH BARON
WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE ZAMBIAN ARMY WHILE MAKING A LANDING
AT SESHEKE ON THE NAMIBIA-ZAMBIA BORDER. THE PILOT, AN
AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND ALL THREE PASSENGERS WERE KILLED.
THE PASSENGERS INCLUDED AN ITALIAN NATIONAL BUSINESSMAN
IN LUSAKA, HIS TWELVE YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AND AN 18 YEAR OLD
BRITISH GIRL, THE COMPANY SECRETARY.

2. THE AIRCRAFT WAS A CHARTER FLIGHT CARRYING THE PASSENGERS
FOR A HOLIDAY WEEKEND AT THE SENANGA FISHING SAFARI LODGE.
THE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN CLEARED BY ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES
FOR THE FLIGHT FROM LUSAKA TO SENANGA BUT THE PILOT
APPARENTLY STRAYED OFF COURSE OVER THE BUSH OF WESTERN ZAMBIA
AND INTENDED TO LAND AT SESHEKE BORDERING ON THE CAPRIVI STRIP
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TO FIND OUT WHERE HE WAS. HE WAS ON HIS FINAL APPROACH TO THE
AIRSTRIIP AT SESHEKE, WHICH HAS NO RADIO, WHEN ZAMBIAN TROOPS
STATIONED AT THE FIELD OPENED FIRE ON THE AIRCRAFT.

3. COMMENT: SWAPO OPERATES IN THE SESHEKE AREA AND THERE HAVE
BEEN ALLEGED AND ACTUAL INCURSIONS FROM THE CAPRIVI BY SAG
TROOPS OVER THE YEARS. BOTH SWAPO AND ZAMBIAN MILITARY IN

THIS AREA CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE ON EDGE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY
TRUE IN LIGHT OF THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO A REPORTED BUILD
UP OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN THE AREA.
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT PILOTS, DEATHS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780271-0010
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978064/aaaaactb.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa9f4685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2280382
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PILOT KILLED
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EAIR, CDES, ZA, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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